
Providing Documentation of Citizenship for TennCare/Medicaid



In the past, if you had TennCare/Medicaid or applied for TennCare/Medicaid, you had to declare on paper that you were a U.S. citizen or national, or that you were a “Qualified Alien.” All States have required that you be able to document Qualified Alien Status, and some States have required you to document citizenship status.

What is changing?

Congress passed a new law. Beginning on July 1, 2006, all people who get TennCare/Medicaid or people who apply for TennCare/Medicaid must be able to document that they are U.S. citizens or nationals. If you are enrolled in Medicare or receive SSI (disability), you will not be affected by this new law.

What kind of documentation do I need?

The best way to document that you are a U.S. citizen is with one of these:

- A U.S. Passport
- A Certificate of Naturalization (DHS Forms N-550 or N-570)
- A Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (DHS Forms N-560 or N-561)

(If you do not have any of these documents, you will need two documents, one document to show you are a citizen and one document to show who you are.)

Document you are a citizen with:

- Your birth certificate, or
- A Report or Certification of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (Form FS-240 or FS-545), or
- A U.S. Citizen I.D. card (DHS Form I-197), or
- Adoption Papers, or
- Military Record.

Show who you are with:

- Your picture on your current State driver's license or State identity card, or
- School identification card, or
- A Federal, State or Local government identification card, or
- A U.S. Military Identification card.

What should I do if I don't have any of these things?

- Check with the Tennessee Department of Human Services about other ways to document you are a citizen and to show who you are,
- Tell DHS why you can't get documents, and
- Give DHS any documents you have.

(Each document you provide must be an original or a copy certified by the Agency that has the original. You cannot use a photocopy or a notarized copy of your document.)

How much time do I have to show this documentation to DHS?

The Department of Human Services must give you a reasonable amount of time to get your documents. Check with DHS to see exactly how much time you have to get your documents.

What if I still have questions?

If you still have questions, contact the Family Assistance Service Center by calling toll free 1-866-311-4287. Information is also available on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) website www.cms.hhs.gov

